

Background Information  
Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program  
Hawaii State Department of Health

1. Goal of the cooperative agreement: Establish the capacity to respond effectively to bioterrorism, other outbreaks of infectious disease, and other public health threats and emergencies.
  - a. Focus Area A: Assessment and Planning
    - i. Establish a process for strategic leadership, direction, coordination, and assessment of activities to ensure state and local readiness, interagency collaboration, and preparedness, and assess the public health system capacities.
    - ii. Develop and exercise a comprehensive public health emergency preparedness and response plan.
    - iii. Prepare to manage the CDC National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS), should it be deployed
  - b. Focus Area B: Surveillance and Epidemiology Capacity
    - i. Surveillance and Detection: Develop the capacity to rapidly detect a terrorist event through a highly functioning disease surveillance system.
    - ii. Epidemiologic Investigation and Response: Develop the capacity to rapidly and effectively investigate and respond to a potential terrorist event, based on a plan that addresses surge capacity, delivery of mass prophylaxis and immunizations, and pre-event development of specific epidemiologic investigation and response needs.
  - c. Focus Area C: Laboratory Capacity
    - i. Develop and implement a statewide program to provide rapid and effective laboratory services in support of the response to bioterrorism, other infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health threats and emergencies.
    - ii. Ensure adequate and secure laboratory facilities, reagents, and equipment to rapidly detect and correctly identify biological agents likely to be used in a bioterrorist incident.
  - d. Focus Area E.: Communications and Information Technology
    - i. Develop effective electronic communications connectivity among public health departments, healthcare organizations, law enforcement organizations, public officials, and health care providers, including a method of emergency communication for participants in public health emergency response that is fully redundant with e-mail.
    - ii. Develop the capacity for secure electronic exchange of clinical, laboratory, environmental, and other public health information in standard formats between the computer systems of public health partners

(laboratories, health care facilities, health care providers).

- e. Focus Area F: Public Information and Communication
  - i. Develop capacity to provide needed health/risk information to the public during a terrorism event by
    - (1) establishing critical baseline information about the current communication needs and barriers within individual communities, and
    - (2) identifying effective channels of communication for reaching the general public and special populations during public health threats and emergencies.
  - ii. Identify, develop, and pretest communication concepts, messages, and strategies for bioterrorism, other infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health threats and emergencies.
- f. Focus Area G: Education and Training
  - i. Arrange for provision of education and training to key public health professionals, infectious disease specialists, emergency department personnel, and other healthcare providers in preparedness for and response to bioterrorism, other infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health threats and emergencies.